AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces and supersedes all previous listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for aligning bank notes in a transport system, with the following steps:
   - detecting the alignment of a bank note transported separately in the transport system,
   - checking the detected alignment of the single bank note as to the presence of a misalignment,
   - aligning the single bank note in a desired alignment by a movement of the single bank note in a direction deviating from the transport direction of the transport system using the detected misalignment,

   ~~characterized by~~
   - detecting the alignment of the single bank note during the aligning, said aligning while the bank note to be aligned is being transported in the transport direction, and
   - terminating the aligning, as soon as the single bank note has the desired alignment.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance is determined of the single bank note at least one of from a bank note located in front of it in the transport system or to a bank note located after it in the transport system, and the single bank note is at least one of slowed down or stopped, so as to achieve a predetermined distance between the single bank note and the bank note located at least one of in front of it or after it in the transport system, if the determined distance does not correspond to the predetermined distance.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for aligning bank notes in a transport system (10; 11), with
   - a device for detecting the alignment (20) of a bank note (BN) transported separately in the transport system (10; 11),

- a device for checking the detected alignment (21) of the single bank note (BN) as to the presence of a misalignment, said misalignment being a movement of the bank note in a direction deviating from the transport direction of the transport system, and
- means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26; 40 to 49) the single bank note (BN′) in a desired alignment, ~~which are~~ said means controlled by the device for checking the detected alignment (21) using the detected misalignment while the bank note to be aligned is being transported in the transport direction,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein

- the device for detecting the alignment (20) detects the alignment of the single bank note (BN′) in the area of the means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26; 40 to 49), and
- the device for checking the detected alignment (21) stops the means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26; 40 to 49), as soon as the single bank note (BN′) has the desired alignment.

4. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the device for detecting the alignment (20) detects a two-dimensional area.

5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26) mechanically act on the single bank note (BN′).

6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that the means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26) have at least one roller (23; 24), which aligns the single bank note (BN′) by a movement in a direction deviating from the transport direction (T) of the transport system (10; 11).

7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that the means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26) at least have one component (22; 25), which removes the means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26) from the single bank note (BN′).

8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the means for aligning (40 to 49) act on the single bank note (BN′) in a non-contacting fashion.

9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that the means for aligning (40 to 49) at least produce one air flow (41 to 44), which aligns the single bank note (BN′) by a movement in a direction deviating from the transport direction (T) of the transport system (10; 11).

10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the device for detecting the alignment (20) and the device for checking the detected alignment (21) detect and determine the distance between the single bank note (BN′) and a bank note (BN″) located in front of it in at least one of the transport system (10; 11) and a bank note (BN) located after it in the transport system (10; 11), and that a device (30, 31), controlling the device for checking the detected alignment (21), at least one of slows down and stops the single bank note (BN′), so as to achieve a predetermined distance between the single bank note (BN′) and the bank note (BN″ and/ or BN) located at least one of in front of it or after it in the transport system (10; 11), if the determined distance does not correspond to the predetermined distance.

11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that the device (30, 31) for at least one of slowing down or stopping the single bank note (BN′) mechanically acts on the bank note.

12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the transport system (10; 11) has a guiding element (15), against which the single bank note (BN′) is directed by the means for aligning (22 to 25; 22, 23, 26; 40 to 49), the guiding element (15) having the desired alignment.

13. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the apparatus and the transport system are components of an automatic counter for receiving bank notes.

14. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the apparatus and the transport system are components of a bank-note processing machine for at least one of counting, checking or sorting bank notes.